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## Notes and News

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHERS

#### *Minutes of the Annual Meeting*

The Executive Committee met in Chicago, September 6, 1921, with J. P. W. Crawford, J. D. Fitz-Gerald, Irvin S. Goodman and C. H. Handschin present and A. Busse and E. F. Hauch represented by proxy.

1. Irvin S. Goodman was chosen temporary chairman.

2. The secretary's report was read and approved and his bill of \$4.67 for telegrams and postage allowed.

3. The following were elected officers for the year. J. P. W. Crawford, President, W. A. Nitze, Vice-President, C. H. Handschin, Secretary.

4. Resolved that, the proper rotation now having been achieved, all associate editors be elected for a term of three years. By this arrangement two editors will be elected every year.

5. B. Q. Morgan, University of Wisconsin, and Ernest J. Hall, Sheffield Scientific School, were elected associate editors of THE MODERN LANGUAGE JOURNAL.

6. Resolved that it be made a rule of the Executive Committee that the minutes of its proceedings be published in THE MODERN LANGUAGE JOURNAL.

7. Resolved that the Business Manager of THE JOURNAL make a financial report to the Executive Committee at its meeting, the report to be audited by a committee.

8. Resolved that if any officer of the Executive Committee is retiring at the end of the year, he carry on the business of his office up to the time of the annual meeting of the Executive Committee and, if unable to attend the meeting, he shall forward to his successor in good season for the meeting, his report, *agenda*, etc. This rule is necessary since the newly elected member, not the retiring one, attends the annual meeting.

9. Upon motion of the Secretary, resolved that any vote taken by mail shall be audited by a committee, in the same manner as the financial report.

10. Resolved to refer to the constituent associations of The National Federation the following change in the constitution, V., d. Strike out the words "between June 1 and September 1."

11. Resolved that THE MODERN LANGUAGE JOURNAL be paid \$1.50 for each subscription coming in thru affiliated associations.

This rule is intended merely to supersede a rule passed by the M. L. T. As to detailed regulation, see following paragraph.

12. Resolved:

(1) That efforts be made by the Executive Committee of the National Federation to form affiliated groups of modern language teachers in cities and states in which no such associations exist at present, such groups to be considered as affiliated with the regional association in whose territory they are situated and to receive each a charter signed by the officers of the National Federation.

(2) That city groups shall be granted a subscription rate of \$1.75 to the MODERN LANGUAGE JOURNAL upon furnishing a minimum of ten subscribers annually if paid thru the secretary of the group.

(3) That state associations be granted the same rate under the same conditions except that they shall furnish a minimum of twenty-five subscribers.

(4) That all groups whether city or state which furnish a minimum of two hundred subscribers shall be granted a rate of \$1.50 under the same conditions and affiliate membership without representation.

(5) That such regional associations may be affiliated directly with the National Federation.

(6) That all of the kinds of groups named above shall enjoy the further privilege of having notes concerning their programs or other events of interest to modern language teachers published in THE MODERN LANGUAGE JOURNAL.

(7) That representation on the Executive Committee of the National Federation shall be granted to affiliated associations on the basis of one committeeman for every three hundred subscriptions to THE MODERN LANGUAGE JOURNAL paid annually thru the secretary of such association, except as provided for otherwise in the constitution of The National Federation.

13. Inasmuch as the effects of the World War on secondary education in the United States have been felt most directly and most severely in the field of modern language instruction, and the imperative need of an investigation of this whole field is too obvious to require discussion, the Executive Committee of The National Federation of Modern Language Teachers hereby respectfully petitions The General Education Board to provide the funds for a survey of modern language instruction in the secondary schools of the United States, similar to the investigations in other departments of secondary education which have been undertaken in the past few years.

Convinced, in view of the educational reconstruction now going on in the United States as a result of the war, that never in

the history of American education has there been so great and timely an opportunity to perform a signal service to American education in general, and to modern language instruction in particular, the Executive Committee of the National Federation pledges its hearty coöperation in the execution of such a plan by lending all the machinery of its organization—its national executive committee and its regional, state and city associations as well as its national organ, 'THE MODERN LANGUAGE JOURNAL,'—to the successful achievement of this object, and by creating such national, regional and state committees as may prove most feasible to carry out the project of a comprehensive and thorough survey of modern language instruction in the secondary schools of the United States.

This resolution to be sent by the Secretary to the General Education Board.

14. Resolved to instruct the Secretary to invite the Modern Language Association of America and The American Association of Teachers of Spanish to consider the advisability of supporting our resolution to the General Education Board.

15. Resolved to invite The American Association of Teachers of Spanish to join The National Federation of Modern Language on the same terms as the other affiliated associations.

16. Resolved that the territory of The M. L. T. be delimited to include, besides the states already affiliated, the states west of the Alleghanies and north of the Ohio and the following states west of the Mississippi: Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota.

17. The auditing committee reported that it had examined the report of the Business Manager and found it to be correct.

J. P. W. CRAWFORD, *President*

C. H. HANDSCHIN, *Secretary*

Professor H. C. Morrison of the School of Education of the University of Chicago, Superintendent of the Laboratory Schools of that institution, has secured a grant from the Commonwealth Fund to undertake investigations on various phases of the learning of French in secondary school. He is being aided by Arthur G. Bovee of the University High School.

Assistant Professor Courtney Bruerton of Dartmouth College has accepted a similar appointment in the Romance department of Tufts. His place at Dartmouth has been filled by the appointment of L. J. Cook of Tufts.

Miss Elizabeth McPike, formerly assistant in French at the University of Chicago, has returned to finish her work for the doctorate at that institution after a year as fellow at the Ecole Normale of Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

Professor Bert E. Young of Vanderbilt, Secretary of the Central Division of the M.L.A., spent the summer vacation in France.

Associate Professor T. L. Neff of the Romance department of the University of Chicago has returned after a nine-month stay in France, having spent most of the time at Grenoble.

Miss Edith Denise, formerly dean of women at Lake Forest College, has taken a temporary instructorship at the University of Idaho in place of Miss J. Ingersoll, who is on leave.

With impressive interest the United States celebrated the six hundredth anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri in Washington on Oct. 3. Addresses were delivered by the Ambassadors of Italy and of France, and a paper on the significance of Dante's work was read by Professor Charles H. Grandgent of Harvard University. There have been numerous other celebrations on a smaller scale of this significant event, and in many university and public libraries throughout the country, interesting material bearing on the life and works of the great poet has been placed on public exhibition.

#### CALIFORNIA ITEMS

The Association Française, holding its meetings in San Francisco and at the University of California, has been reorganized and has laid out a very attractive program of work for this year. Its membership is not confined to teachers of the French language, but may include anyone interested in France or things French. The meetings will be held once a month, and will include two features: first, a lecture in French on a general subject pertaining to art, literature or travel; and second, a discourse, followed by discussion, upon some of the following topics: *Phonétique, Méthode Directe, Choix des Livres, Préparation des Universités, Moyens de Diffusion du Français, Que faire des Tolérances Grammaticales, L'Enseignement de l'Histoire de France dans les Ecoles Supérieures*, etc. The president is Professor Régis Michaud of the University of California, and the Secretary is Mrs. Belle Bickford, of the Oakland High School.

Mr. Wm. Schwartz, of the French department of Stanford University, is spending this semester in study and travel in France and Italy. At the last meeting of the Association Française, he gave an illustrated lecture upon "Mes Observations pendant l'Eruption du Volcan Sakurajima."

Mrs. Louisa N. Howard, head of the department of modern languages in the Berkeley High School, has taken a leave of absence for 18 months for the purpose of study in France. Miss Juliette Lévy, of the University High School, Oakland, has taken a year's leave for the same purpose. Mrs. Belle Bickford, of the Oakland High School, has taken her place. Also Miss Rachel

Kurlanzik, teacher of French in the Crocker Intermediate School of San Francisco, has spent the summer and a part of this semester studying in Paris. These leaves show vital ambition on the part of the teachers, as well as coöperation of school authorities.

I. C. H.

#### MAINE NOTES

Philip W. Harry, Associate Professor of Romance Languages in Colby College, spent the summer vacation in Spain.

Several changes have occurred in the modern language faculty of Bates College. Professor Samuel F. Harms has a year's leave of absence which he will spend in study and travel in Spain. Mr. Sydney B. Brown, who has been studying in France during the past year, has returned to the department of Romance Languages. Mr. C. Floyd Whitcomb, formerly instructor of French in the University of Maine, will be instructor of French and Spanish.

Mr. John A. Strausbaugh, instructor in Spanish at the University of Maine, has returned from Cuba, where he spent the summer in study. Miss Frances E. Arnold of the same department attended the Spanish School of Middlebury College.

R. M. P.

#### THE ANCIENT OR THE MODERN LANGUAGES?

Modern language study seems to be under fire in various quarters of the globe. In the United States they are being attacked on utilitarian grounds. Many theorists on education are asked if they are of value in the curriculum of the public schools as compared with studies that may prepare more immediately for citizenship or for business. In France, to judge from a document that has recently reached us, they are threatened, curiously enough, by an attempt to restore Latin and Greek to a position of supremacy in the curriculum. This document is in the shape of a letter issued by the Association des Professeurs des Langues Vivantes, in which members of the Association are informed of certain questions submitted by the Minister of Public Instruction to the members of the Conseil Supérieur de l'Instruction Publique, and are urged to join a "Comité de résistance." We give below the significant portions of this communication.

#### CABINET DU MINISTRE

DE L'INSTRUCTION PUBLIQUE

ET DES BEAUX-ARTS

#### 1<sup>re</sup> QUESTION

Le Conseil Supérieur de l'Instruction Publique n'estime-t-il pas indispensable de supprimer la division des études secondaires, séparées actuellement en deux cycles?

2<sup>me</sup> QUESTION

Le Conseil Supérieur de l'Instruction Publique ne considère-t-il pas comme nécessaire d'établir un enseignement unique jusqu'au passage en 3<sup>e</sup>, le latin étant obligatoire dans les classes de 6<sup>e</sup>, 5<sup>e</sup>, et 4<sup>e</sup>, et le grec dans cette dernière classe?

3<sup>me</sup> QUESTION

Le Conseil Supérieur de l'Instruction Publique est-il d'avis qu'il soit établi, à partir de la Classe de 3<sup>e</sup>, une division de l'Enseignement en deux Sections:

1<sup>o</sup> Enseignement classique divisé lui-même en:

a) Latin-grec, avec un enseignement scientifique plus développé que dans le plan d'études actuel.

b) Latin-sciences.

2<sup>o</sup> Enseignement Secondaire Moderne.

4<sup>me</sup> QUESTION

Le Conseil Supérieur de l'Instruction Publique n'est-il pas d'avis qu'une différence de sanctions s'imposerait suivant la nature de l'enseignement reçu: le baccalauréat, avec les droits qu'il confère présentement, deviendrait la sanction des études d'enseignement classique (Latin-Grec, Latin-Sciences), tandis que les études de la deuxième section aboutiraient à un diplôme d'enseignement secondaire moderne qui serait admis pour l'inscription dans les établissements et Ecoles d'Enseignement Supérieur, en vue de l'obtention des grades ou titres conférés par l'Etat, sauf la Licence ès Lettres (toutes mentions), les concours de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure et de l'Ecole Nationale des Chartes, la Licence en Droit et le Doctorat en Médecine?

6<sup>me</sup> QUESTION

Les classes de Langues Vivantes étant quelque peu restreintes par suite d'une diminution d'heures, et de la disparition de la seconde langue dans les classes de seconde et de première, le Conseil supérieur de l'Instruction Publique serait-il d'avis d'autoriser les Chefs d'établissements à organiser des cours facultatifs où les élèves pourraient étudier une seconde langue, lorsque ces cours auraient, dès la rentrée, un effectif suffisant d'inscrits?

Dans l'affirmative, le Conseil Supérieur ne jugerait-il pas utile d'autoriser les candidats au baccalauréat et au diplôme d'enseignement secondaire moderne à présenter une seconde langue comme matière supplémentaire avec un coefficient approprié?

Nous apprenons d'autre part qu'un Comité de Résistance a été immédiatement constitué par un certain nombre de membres du Conseil, sous la présidence de M. Ferdinand Brunot, doyen de la Faculté des Lettres de l'Université de Paris.

Il publie l'appel ci-dessous:

"De son Cabinet, sans passer par la Direction de l'Enseignement Secondaire, M. le Ministre de l'Instruction Publique propose une série de mesures dont l'effet sera de reprendre les droits enfin accordés il y a vingt ans aux études modernes.

"S'il était suivi, le baccalauréat ne pourrait plus être obtenu par les élèves qui n'auraient pas fait de latin. Les modernes, quels que puissent être leurs mérites, n'auraient qu'un diplôme inférieur qui ne leur donnerait pas le droit d'entrer à la Faculté de Droit ou de Médecine. On n'a pas osé leur fermer aussi les Facultés des Sciences et les Ecoles scientifiques. Nous n'en sommes qu'à la première Restauration.

"Mais, dès maintenant, nous pouvons voir où la réaction entend nous conduire. La France niant elle-même la valeur de sa propre culture, de sa littérature, de sa philosophie, de son génie, va déclarer à la face du monde stupéfait que tout cela ne suffit pas à la formation de la jeunesse française. Comment dès lors prétendre que cette culture suffise aux étrangers? C'est la faillite volontaire, proclamée au moment où nous avons le plus besoin d'asseoir notre influence morale.

"D'autre part, comme aucune mesure n'est proposée pour réserver les bienfaits de l'enseignement secondaire ainsi constitué à ceux-là seuls qui sont capables de le recevoir, comme il continuera à être donné aux enfants dont les parents peuvent payer, et que ceux qui ne l'auront pas reçu ne pourront par aucune voie trouver accès aux carrières libérales, c'est la démocratie exclue de ses droits, frustrée de ses espérances, au profit d'une classe de privilégiés.

"Que répondre, dans ces conditions, aux apôtres de révolution quand ils parleront de prendre par la force la nouvelle Bastille?

"Contre ce retour au passé qui serait pour l'avenir un immense danger; nous créons dès maintenant un Comité de résistance. Voulez-vous en être?

"FERDINAND BRUNOT, *Doyen de la Faculté des Lettres,*  
KœNIGS, *Professeur à la Faculté des Sciences,*  
CAPITANT, *Professeur à la Faculté de Droit,*  
Mlle SANUA, Mm. COLIN, GRÉVY, PEYROT, RANCÈS,  
*Membres du Conseil Supérieur."*

At the meeting of the Modern Language Association to be held in Baltimore next December there will be a group to consider the Spanish-American and Brazilian literatures and their place in the curricula of our schools and colleges. All who are interested are invited to attend the meeting.

E. C. HILLS, *Chairman of the Group.*